Stephen L. Johnson EPA Administrator Ariel Rios Bldg. 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington D.C. 20460



Mr. Johnson,

In my community in Northern Michigan, there are some serious health problems due to the release of hydrogen sulfide gas by the oil and gas industries. Along with the associated facilities, we have been told by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that there are approximately 6000 gas and oil wells in just two Northern Michigan Counties, {Montmorency and Otsego}. I do not think that I need to remind you of the dangers of hydrogen sulfide gas and all of the numerous health problems associated with it. As you may know, there are many new studies indicating that hydrogen sulfide gas even at low levels over an extended period of time can have very serious health ramifications for the citizens that are exposed on a daily basis.

It is my understanding that as the Administrator of the EPA, there is nothing in the law that precludes your agency from adding this deadly gas back onto the Hazardous Air Pollutant list and that you, as the Administrator can do so independently, without a petition, in the face of persuasive new evidence. I strongly urge you to do this. We are tired of having to constantly having to flee our homes because of health problems, {which go away when we do leave the area}. We are literally sick and tired of being pushed around by the oil and gas industry and the Michigan DEQ. DO THE RIGHT THING! Add this deadly gas back onto the list so the people of my community and other communities around the nation can breath easier once again.



Stephen Chester Director, Michigan DEQ P.O. Box 30473 Lansing, Mi. 48909-7973

Mr. Chester,

Back in December of 2004, Congressman Bart Stupak sent you a letter encouraging the MDEO to do Air Monitoring at the Lewiston Truck Unloading Station for the dangerous gas hydrogen sulfide and other contaminants. You responded publically in the Montmorency Tribune that "The facility does not receive any crude that meets the definition of "sour" crude." I have in my possession a copy of the minutes of the Albert Township Board meeting of September 13, 2004, wherein an official of the DEO states "we are receiving more tanker trucks with crude oil in our area with the closing of another facility in Farwell. Some of these trucks are carrying sour oil." Our attorney has met with drivers that have come forward and told her that some of the loads they bring into the Lewiston Truck Unloading Facility have a hydrogen sulfide content of 400,000 to 7000,000 parts per million. Also at one of the Township meetings, Mr. Schuster, a retired chemist, confirmed the strong odor of rotten eggs at the Lewiston Truck Unloading Facility was definitely the product of hydrogen sulfide.

I am exercising my right under SARA Title III which gives citizens the right to know and access to information about chemicals used, stored and released in their community. I am demanding under SARA Title III that air monitoring equipment be set up at the Lewiston Truck Unloading Facility to monitor the air on a continuous basis for contaminants including hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide. If this is not done soon, my group is prepared to take legal action.

Sincerely,



cc: Stephen L. Johnson, U.S. EPA Administrator

Miskephenishinan EPA Odminishinter Unish Rich Blog 120 Pennaghania Que Wahisten DC 2040